(c) and (d). To meet the situation Air India is also continuously exploring the possibility of expanding its Code-Share operations in co-operation with European, American and South East Asian Carriers. Such Code-Share/Joint Venture arrangements are already operative with Scandinavian Airline System, United Airlines, Kuwait Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Gulf Air and Air Mauritius.

Accident of Aircraft of Bokaro Steel Plant

3982. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aircrafts belonging to Bokaro Steel Plant damaged during 1995 and 1996, so far;

(b) the reasons for each of the accidents alongwith the extent of loss suffered in each case during the above period;

(c) the details of the enquiries conducted in this regard and the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken to stop recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) have only one aircraft. During the years 1995 and 1996 it was involved in only one ground incident and got damaged. This ground incident took place in 1996.

This incident took place while checking of brake effectiveness on ground. Actual cost of repair except the inspection charges of the engine is Rs. 22,19,641/-. The charges for inspection of engine shall be available after inspection by overhauling agency i.e. M/s. Pratt and Whitney, Canada. As the Aircrafts is insured, necessary claim has been lodged with the insurance company.

(c) Enquiry has been conducted by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The concerned engineer has been warned to be more careful in future and has been advised not to taxy the Aircraft in futre.

(d) The concerned engineer has been directed by BSL not to taxy the Aircraft to avoid recurrence in future.

Delay in Introduction of passenger Trains

3983. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay to introduce passenger trains from Kharagpur to Barddhaman and Sealdah, Naihati to Howrah, Bandel to Sealdah, Purulia to Barddhaman and Chittaranjan to Barddhaman/Asansol inspite of availability of existing infrastructure;

(b) whether the marginal investment has been made for creation of additional infrastructure in order to mitigate commuters' hardship in course of transhipment en-route; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Introduction of passenger services in the Kharagpur-Sealdah/ Barddhaman section is presently not feasible as the route via Andul link is not fit for passenger train operations. Introduction of services from Naihati to Howrah via Bandel involves the problem of reversals at Bandel. The Howrah bound passengers of Naihati will have to avail changeover at Bandel. Bandel is already connected with Sealdah by 4 pairs of trains. Further, Sealdah bound passenger of Bandel can avail of changeover at Naihati. Regarding passenger services between Purulia-Barddhaman convenient connecting changeover services are available at Asansol. Direct service between Purulia and Barddhaman is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints including non-availability of maintenance facilities at Purulia. Chittaranjan-Asansol section is, at present served by Diesel push-pull and other services in addition to direct train services connecting Chittranjan and Barddhaman.

(b) and (c). For introduction of EMU services between Kharagpur and Sealdah, a reconnaissance type engg. cum traffic survey has been taken up and investments as found feasible and justified can be made only after the survey is completed.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Municipal Bodies

3984. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to financial assistance not being provided to the municipal bodies of Agra and Fatehpur Sikri as per their demand, the tourists, other citizens and institutions have complained of cleanlilessness, poor amenities around tourists spots and at places where tourists stay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has also made some recommendation and expressed concern in this regard while dealing with public interest petitions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any time bound remedial action plan is under the consideration of the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The Department of Tourism does not provide financial assistance to Municipal bodies for maintenance of